REMARKS

Reexamination, and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following remarks, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, are respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19 are currently pending in the present application. The Examiner has stated that "[t]he claims appear to be free of the prior art." March 23, 2003 Official Action at 2. The Examiner has further stated that claims 17 and 19 are allowed. *Id.*

Claims 16 and 18, however, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has stated that, while such claims require a method for detecting a highly ordered structural site of a nucleic acid of a gene, the steps within the claims do not recite an "actual detection of a highly ordered structural site." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to the Examiner's inquiry, the existence of the target site is reflected in the electrochemical response.

Specifically, in cyclic CDNIFc, transfer complexes are formed between ferrocenyl groups and napththalene diimide moieties in an aqueous solution, and charge transfer occurs from ferrocene to naphthalene. However, because of the interaction between CDNIFc and the structural site of a single stranded nucleic acid, bases constituting the site are attached or sandwiched in CDNIFc. Then the above-mentioned intermolecular charge transfer is inhibited only when the probe binds with the site, resulting in inhibition of

measurable response current at 572mC corresponding to ferrocene. This is why the present invention provides a highly sensitive detection of the target site. *See* Specification at pages 10-11.

The principle of this invention is adequately described in the present specification. From this principle, one of skill in the art would understand that the existence of the target site is reflected in the electrochemical response.

It is further noted that a repeated sequence (*i.e.*, GGC sequence) exists in X chromosome syndrome to form a hairpin structure and the inventor succeeded in detection of electrochemical response corresponding to this target site.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment and Reply or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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